

size. The posts stood upright, so it is assumed that they supported a roof. No hearth has been found in the enclosure, but near the southwest corner is a depression containing many charred and split bones of food animals. The floor was of packed earth.

M. R. Harrington, curator of the Southwest Museum, who was in charge of the expedition, states that the dwelling may date from shortly after the close of the Ice Age. Stone spear or dart heads of the type recently named Pinto Basin culture were found in and near the old house site, so there is no doubt that Pinto Basin man built and lived in the hut.

Date of the Pinto Basin culture, first discovered near Twentynine Palms, Calif., by Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Campbell, has not yet been established. Estimates range from

as recent as 1,000 B. C. to as ancient as 8,000 B. C.

Earliest American habitations, aside from caves, are pit dwellings dating from the earlier centuries of the Christian era, when the Basketmaker culture flourished in the Southwest.

Science News Letter, September 4, 1948

#### GENERAL SCIENCE

### SNL on News Stands Of New York City

➤ WHEN YOU ARE in New York City you may now buy the SCIENCE NEWS LETTER each week on many of the news stands of the metropolitan area. Look for it and tell your New York friends about it.

Science News Letter, September 4, 1948

## Letters To The Editor

### Biggest Ever

Your item (SNL, Aug. 21) about big hailstones reminds me of some in Cincinnati, Ohio, about 1900. Major Bixby (afterwards Chief of Engineers, U. S. Army) stared at them in astonishment, called a cab, then took off his coat and bundled up the biggest ones in it. These he rushed to an engineer friend at the cold-storage plant to be preserved as proof of his veracity. But his friend was a practical joker and found a way to make them grow to immense size (a little bigger at each call). So they, probably, were the biggest ever.—Gilbert S. Walker, Pittsburgh.

### Reader's Page

I read your magazine and I think it is wonderful! It should be in all schools to promote science and American ingenu-

ity. Why not devote a page in your SCIENCE NEWS LETTER for the readers to write and discuss their amateurish ideas and inventions? Thanks.—J. S. Badon, Breaux Bridge, La. *Here's the page right here.*

### Laws of Matter Up-to-Date

This compilation (SNL, June 19) is one of the clearest condensations that I have ever read. I am filing it for future reference.—M. L. Ballou, Arlington, Va.

### Televised Ocean Bottom?

It would be a good idea if the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution would use television on its vessel "Atlantis" to see what is at the bottom of the sea (SNL, Aug. 14)—R. Youngblood, New York City.

## Question Box

#### ARCHAEOLOGY

Where may America's oldest house be located? p. 147

#### ASTRONOMY

What are white dwarfs and why were they named so? p. 150

What is the latest theory on the birth of cosmic rays? p. 156

#### BIOCHEMISTRY

How may the body act to correct a vitamin deficiency? p. 147

#### MEDICINE

How do the two new artificial kidneys

operate? p. 157

operate? p. 157

How has the Rh factor served as a clue to the origin of the Basques? p. 149.

How many factors are now believed to be involved in clotting? p. 146

What effect will the atomic bomb have on your blood-forming system? p. 146

What "granddaddy" virus may have been found? p. 151

#### RADIO-PHYSICS

Where does "cosmic noise" come from? p. 155

Photographs: Cover, p. 154, p. 155, University of California African Expedition; p. 147, M. R. Harrington, Southwest Museum; p. 149, The Kellogg Corp.; p. 151, Gulf Oil.

#### INVENTION

### Salt in Auto Tire Helps Prevent Skidding on Ice

➤ SALT in an automobile tire is the newest aid suggested for driving on icy streets.

The salt is not just added to the tire. It is scattered within a new material developed for recapping worn tires. The material, developed by the United States Rubber Company, is called "Wintrac."

This new recapping material consists of a high quality tread stock into which thousands of pieces of rock salt have been mixed. As the tread wears down, the pieces of salt are released to form surface pores which grip the road.

Science News Letter, September 4, 1948

## SCIENCE NEWS LETTER

Vol. 54

Sept. 4, 1948

No. 10

55,900 copies of this issue printed.

The Weekly Summary of Current Science, published every Saturday by SCIENCE SERVICE, Inc., 1719 N St., N. W., Washington 6, D. C., North 2255. Edited by WATSON DAVIS.

Subscription rates: 1 yr., \$5.50; 2 yrs., \$10.00; 3 yrs., \$14.50; single copy, 15 cents, more than six months old, 25 cents. No charge for foreign postage.

Change of address: Three weeks notice is required. When ordering a change, please state exactly how magazine is now addressed. Your new address should include postal zone number if you have one.

Copyright, 1948, by Science Service, Inc. Reproduction of any portion of SCIENCE NEWS LETTER is strictly prohibited. Newspapers, magazines and other publications are invited to avail themselves of the numerous syndicate services issued by Science Service. Science Service also publishes CHEMISTRY (monthly) and THINGS of Science (monthly).

Printed in U. S. A. Entered as second class matter at the post office at Washington, D. C., under the Act of March 3, 1879. Established in mimeographed form March 18, 1922. Title registered as trademark, U. S. and Canadian Patent Offices. Indexed in Readers' Guide to Periodical Literature, Abridged Guide, and the Engineering Index.

Member Audit Bureau of Circulation. Advertising Representatives: Howland and Howland, Inc., 393 7th Ave., N.Y.C., Pennsylvania 6-5566 and 360 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago, STAtE 4439.

#### SCIENCE SERVICE

The Institution for the Popularization of Science organized 1921 as a non-profit corporation.

Board of Trustees—Nominated by the American Association for the Advancement of Science: Edwin G. Conklin, Princeton University; Karl Lark-Horowitz, Purdue University; Kirtley F. Mather, Harvard University. Nominated by the National Academy of Sciences: Harlow Shapley, Harvard College Observatory; Warren H. Lewis, Wistar Institute; R. A. Millikan, California Institute of Technology. Nominated by the National Research Council: Hugh S. Taylor, Princeton University; Ross G. Harrison, Yale University; Alexander Wetmore, Secretary, Smithsonian Institution. Nominated by the Journalistic Profession: A. H. Kirchhofer, Buffalo Evening News; Neil H. Swanson, Baltimore Sun Papers; O. W. Riegel, Washington and Lee School of Journalism. Nominated by the E. W. Scripps Estate; H. L. Smithson, E. W. Scripps Trust; Frank R. Ford, Evansville Press; Charles E. Scripps, Scripps Howard Newspapers.

Officers—President: Harlow Shapley, Vice President and chairman of Executive Committee: Alexander Wetmore, Treasurer: O. W. Riegel, Secretary: Watson Davis.

Staff—Director: Watson Davis. Writers: Frank Thone, Jane Stafford, A. C. Monahan, Marjorie Van de Water, Martha G. Morrow, Ron Ross, Lydia Schweitzer. Science Clubs of America: Joseph H. Kraus, Margaret E. Patterson. Photography: Fremont Davis. Sales and Advertising: Hallie Jenkins. Production: Priscilla Howe.